[10th August 1929

* Mr. P. C. VENKATAPATHI RAJU :—" I am not questioning the legality or otherwise of the continuance of the sitting of the Council, but I am simply pointing out certain inconveniences which my party will be put to in the matter."

VI

THE "JUSTICE" AND THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Mr. P. C. VENKATAPATHI RAJU :—" Now, Sir, before we commence the regular business of the day, I wish to draw your attention and also the attention of this hon. House to the leading article published in one of the daily journals of this place, viz., *Justice* of Thursday the 8th August 1929. I feel that is an attack bringing both this House and the hon. the President to contempt and I bring it to your notice for such action as you deem fit under the circumstances."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I am glad the hon. the Leader of the Opposition has drawn my attention to the article in question. What I propose to do is to call a conference of all Leaders of Parties and also the Advocate-General and consider what steps, if any, should be taken."

The debate on the adjournment motion will continue till 5 minutes after 5 p.m.

VII

ADJOURNMENT MOTION *RE* THE SUPERSESSION OF THE ANAKAPALLE MUNICIPALITY.

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO :—" I beg to move that the business of the House be adjourned for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, viz., the supersession of the Anakapalle Municipal Council for two years by the Government.

" Sir, I beg to state that I would not have undertaken this task but for the grave constitutional issues involved in the supersession of the municipality and in debarring the citizens of that municipality from exercising their rights of franchise for two years. The hon. the Chief Minister seems to believe in exhibiting the powers that he possesses under the Act and in inflicting the extreme punishment. If he were a judge, God forbid he should be one, he would have sentenced every accused in a sedition case for transportation for life. When a grave thing like this occurs, Members on this side of the House who believe that the rights of the people should not be treated so lightly try to put questions and get answers and explanations from the hon. the Chief Minister with regard to the circumstances under which he took this extreme step. When asked whether severe strictures were passed by the Collector or the Government on the administration reports of this municipality for the years 1927–28 and 1928–29, the hon. the Minister wanted notice. When asked to show the report of the Collector upon which this action was based he said that it was confidential. When asked whether the Collector himself made preliminary enquiry or whether he deputed one of his subordinates to make the enquiry, he said that it was his impression that the Collector made the enquiry, but he could not be definite. Sir, this is the third instance in which the supersession of local bodies has taken place in the Telugu country during the last two years. Kistna District Board was superseded for one year. There was a deadlock, which was due to the nomination of 18 members, for which the hon. the Minister himself